



Goshen Super Mileage Club competes

By John Kline

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— Ever dream of driving a car that gets 100 miles to the gallon? At Goshen High School, that is a reality. To demonstrate this feat, members of the Goshen Super Mileage Club recently competed in the 14th Annual Indiana Mathematics, Science and Technology Education Alliance Super Mileage Challenge at O'Reilly Raceway Park, Indianapolis.

"Super Mileage is a competition put on by the IMSTEAs where schools compete to design, fabricate and then test a vehicle for the most fuel efficiency," said JJ Johnson, engineering technology instructor at Goshen High School. "This is a first-time thing for Goshen. We looked into it last year and took the students down to watch the competition just sort of as spectators. Then we started our design work this fall, and have been working on it ever since."

Competition was reportedly fierce at this year's event, with a total of 34 Indiana high schools pitting nearly 50 high performance cars against each other for a chance to come away as the high mileage victors.

The team from Mater Dei High School in Evansville took home the top prize with a recorded rate of 1,293.09 miles per gallon for their vehicle.

While the Goshen team did not take away any prizes, Johnson said he cannot see the competition as anything but a success.

"As a first-year school our main goal was actually just to get our 10 laps in around the five eighths of a mile track," Johnson said. "So basically our goal was just to see if we could get our 10 laps in, and fortunately we were successful in doing that. Not all first-year schools are."

When the last checkered flag was down, the team calculated its car's final mileage at 96 miles per gallon, a figure Johnson said is quite impressive for a first-time school.

"I'm thrilled with how it went," Johnson said. "... A lot of these schools have been doing this for eight or nine years, so going in this as a first-time school, I feel really good about what we've achieved."

As the building of a high-efficiency car obviously requires a lot of time and hard work, Johnson said he wanted to be especially sure to thank all those in the school and around the community who donated their time and expertise to the Super Mileage Club over the past few months.

"We're thankful for all the community support from parents, other teachers at the high school, and to those in the community that donated parts, expertise and labor for the car," Johnson said. "There were a lot of local industries that helped us out, and we really appreciate that."

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